

**Geography 101: People and their Environments,  
10100 – Section 04  
Tuesdays and Thursdays– 5:30pm-6:45pm  
Classes in person in North Building – Room 1036**

Instructor: Prof. Rafael A. Mutis García

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4-4:30pm in HN1032

Instructor's Email: rm5322@hunter.cuny.edu

## **Course Overview & Learning Outcomes, Texts**

### **Course Overview**

Welcome! Geography is one of the most wide-ranging university disciplines, with its mission to explain the interactions of the human and natural worlds to produce our lives, with its environmental and social complexities. This course is an introduction to both physical and human geography, with topics ranging from climate change and plate tectonics to globalization, political boundaries/borders, world cultures and their interactions. It is an introduction to the major fields within the discipline, major patterns of natural and human activity at the global level, and major theories and techniques for thinking spatially. A special emphasis is placed on the interrelatedness of these phenomena, with topics building upon each other throughout the course.

We are here to learn together in a respectful, collegial atmosphere and this will mean that we take each other seriously, listen and learn from each other.

### **Learning Outcomes –**

By the end of the course, you, the students should be able to -

- \* Identify major forces of the physical world – atmospheric, biological, and geochemical processes and the resulting distribution of biomes, weather patterns, and landscapes.
- \* Identify major trends in human activities such as population dynamics, migration, cultural practices, economic activities, and impacts on the environment.
- \* Describe how these interact and impact each other to produce complex phenomena such as globalization and climate change.
- \* Read maps and related spatial graphics for foundational information and to make inferences and connections.
- \* Analyze course topics using geographic concepts such as scale and spatial processes.
- \* Understand the breadth of geography as an academic discipline with a variety of professional applications.

### **Required text-**

**Dahlman, C and W. Renwick (2014) Introduction to Geography: People, Places, and Environment. (6th ed) Pearson. ISBN: 9780321843333 . PLEASE GET THE 2014, SIXTH EDITION!**

There is a couple of copies on reserve in the Library, but that is just 2 for 100 students. Shakespeare & Co. (on Lexington Ave & 68<sup>th</sup> Street) has copies available to buy, the e-books are much cheaper, and you can also check book sellers on the internet for less expensive copies. **Please be sure to get the 6th (2014) edition; neither the global nor the regional edition.**

Other required and supplemental readings will be posted on Blackboard. We will go over how to use Blackboard, but the Hunter IT people are very helpful and patient, and they offer

good guidance in using it successfully. Please check in with them, since this is the way you will be posting your assignments on your group blog, which you will get assigned on day 1.

## Learning Activities and Grading –

Learning Activity	% of Final Grade
Attendance	10%
Discussion Group Work & Participation	25%
Class Participation	20%
Midterm Exam	10%
Final Group Project Presentation	30%
Extra Credit (on final grade)	5%

### Hunter Policies -

#### Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act of 1990-

All students with disabilities and medical conditions are encouraged to register with the Office of AccessABILITY for assistance and accommodation. For information and an appointment contact the Office located in Room E1214B, or call 212-772-4857 /or VP 646-755- 3129 or contact [accessability@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:accessability@hunter.cuny.edu)

#### Policy on sexual harassment/misconduct-

<http://www.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/policies-procedures/Sexual-Misconduct.pdf>

#### Policy on academic integrity -

<https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/policies-procedures/academic-integrity-policy/> . Plagiarism and cheating will entail serious consequences, following the CUNY and Hunter College Rules of Conduct. Please be responsible for your education, and do not put any of us in a situation where disciplinary action will be required. You can certainly study together, help each other out in your discussion groups and in the larger class work we do. But you cannot use some one else's work as your own. We are here to learn together and debate your thought-out opinions based on verifiable facts as we will be studying physical and human geographies and their interactions.

### Expectations -

**Class participation** - Asking questions and helping make the class lectures and readings more interactive for all of us is a helpful way to learn and to enrich our classes together. This will require that you have done the readings for the particular theme/the chapter in the textbook we are discussing that day. Please be brief and to the point in

your comments or questions, so we can all participate in such a big class, throughout the semester, as much as possible.

**Discussion Groups** - You will participate in these twelve discussions throughout the semester on given class dates by discussing topics/chapters for the day within small groups of five (5) of your peers. This requires that you have read the chapter for that class day and that you have thought critically about it. This is a great opportunity to share what you learned from the readings and the previous interactive class lectures with your peers, is a great way to learn from different perspectives, to get a more complete understanding of the materials, and to have sustainable conversations in such a large class. By 11:59pm the next day after we first discussed it in the class, you will need to summarize your discussion in a one-page summary. Be sure to that everyone in your group is included/represented, by answering the particular questions about the chapter(s) in your textbook. Since it is a one-page summary, you cannot have every one answer every question in that summary but be sure to clearly include everyone's thoughts in your group and get their consent to include their comments and its content. For each group of five, for example, you will each have 2 turns to document/coordinate what your group discussed and post it on Blackboard in your Group Blog. You will need to exchange contact information with each other on Day 1, and possibly do longer discussions outside of our classroom lectures, since time is short and we have a lot of exciting material to cover.

This group work will be good practice for each of you in listening and doing documentation work. For your graded summaries and group reports, you will discuss these topics with each other in your small groups, and turn in the summaries of what you discussed by the due dates. You will do this when you post them in your Group Blog on Blackboard by the due date.

**Map Quizzes** - Recognizing and being able to identify countries, regions and topographies on a blank world map of the planet is an important part in learning how to think geographically. There will be five of these throughout the semester, and they will be based on the places we learn about in chapters in the textbook, the interactive lectures, videos and graphics we discuss throughout the semester. These will be taken in class, on a blank global map.

**Exam** - The midterm exam will be cumulative, up to the date that it is taken in class and will involve thinking critically about all the themes we are learning about and discussing. The group presentation at the end of the semester will take the place of the final exam, so you will need to use concepts we learn about together in our class discussions and from the textbook, other supplementary articles, book excerpts & in-class graphics and videos. Please check the dates for these, as we will have to take two of the dates during finals week, since we have 100 people in our class; let me know asap if you have a conflict.

**Group Presentations** – In addition to a spatial discussion of your and your group's intersectionality and topography, you will present what you learned about particular

themes at the end of the semester in an applied, creative and summary way for 8 minutes for each group. This will include your choice of what geographical concepts you learned in this class, what you found interesting and surprising about geography themes that you chose and applying those concepts to your group in an intersectional and topographical way to give us a complete picture of who you are using spatial analysis. There is a document with a good deal of detail of the requirements on Blackboard; please read it carefully throughout the semester so you can be on track to give a great group presentation. After each group presentation, every one will participate in giving you **RESPECTFUL feedback** with clarifying questions, what you did well, and what you can improve on for next time.

**Extra Credit** - You can earn up to five (5) points on your final grade when you briefly articulate concrete experiences (personal, neighborhood, country, cultural, or related learning ones such as something you experienced, read or saw) that is connected to the topics we are discussing on any particular class throughout the semester.

## **Class dates, topics and assignments**

**August 29** - Introductions, to the course, requirements & expectations; intro discussion groups

**August 31** - Chapter 1: Introduction to Geography & Logistics

**September 5** - Chapter 1: Introduction to Geography & Logistics

**September 7** - Chapter 2: Weather, Climate, and Climate Change; **Map Quiz #1**

**September 12** - Chapter 2: Weather, Climate, and Climate Change; **post 1<sup>st</sup> group report on Sept 13, by 11:59pm; discussion groups- post Ch. 1 & 2 summaries on Sept 13, by 11:59pm**

**September 14** - Chapter 3: Landforms

**September 19** - Chapter 4: Biosphere; **Map Quiz #2**

**September 21** - Chapter 5: Earth's Resources and Environmental Protection; **discussion groups- post Ch. 3 & 4 summaries on Sept 22, by 11:59pm**

**September 26** - Chapter 5: Earth's Resources and Environmental Protection; **discussion groups- post Ch. 5 summary on Sept 27, by 11:59pm**

**September 28** - Chapter 11: A World of States

**October 3** - Chapter 11: A World of States; **discussion groups- post Ch. 11 summary on Oct 4, by 11:59pm**

**October 5** – Chapter 12: Economy and Development

**October 10** – **No class; classes follow Monday schedule**

**October 12** - Chapter 12: Economy and Development; **discussion groups- post Ch. 12 summary on Oct 13, by 11:59pm; Midterm Exam**

**October 17** - Chapter 6: Population and Migration

**October 19** - Chapter 7: Cultural Geography; **Map Quiz #3**

**October 24** - Chapter 8: Languages and Religions; **discussion groups- post Ch. 6 & 7 summaries on Oct 25, by 11:59pm**

**October 31** - Chapter 9: Food and Agriculture

**November 2** - Chapter 9: Food and Agriculture; **discussion groups- post Ch. 8 & 9 summaries on Nov 3, by 11:59pm**

**November 7** - Chapter 10: Cities and Urbanization; **Map Quiz #4**

**November 9** - Chapter 10: Cities and Urbanization; **discussion groups- post Ch. 10 summary on Nov 10, by 11:59pm**

**November 14**- Colonization, imperialism and colonialism

**November 16** - Climate Change Prevention, Mitigation & Resiliency; **post 2<sup>nd</sup> group report**

**November 21** - Critical Cartography; **Map Quiz #5**

**November 23** – No class

**November 28** - Carceral & Abolition Geographies

**November 30** – Food sovereignty; **post your 3<sup>rd</sup> group report on Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, by 11:59pm**

**December 5** - Questions & Answers; review geographic concepts and tie videos and graphics to them

**December 7** – Group work in-class. finalize group presentations; all group reports and missing group work due on Blackboard

**December 12** – **Reading Day; no class**

**December 14** - Group project presentations (Groups 1-10)

**December 19** - Group project presentations (Groups 11-20)